

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.



ANNUAL REPORT

for

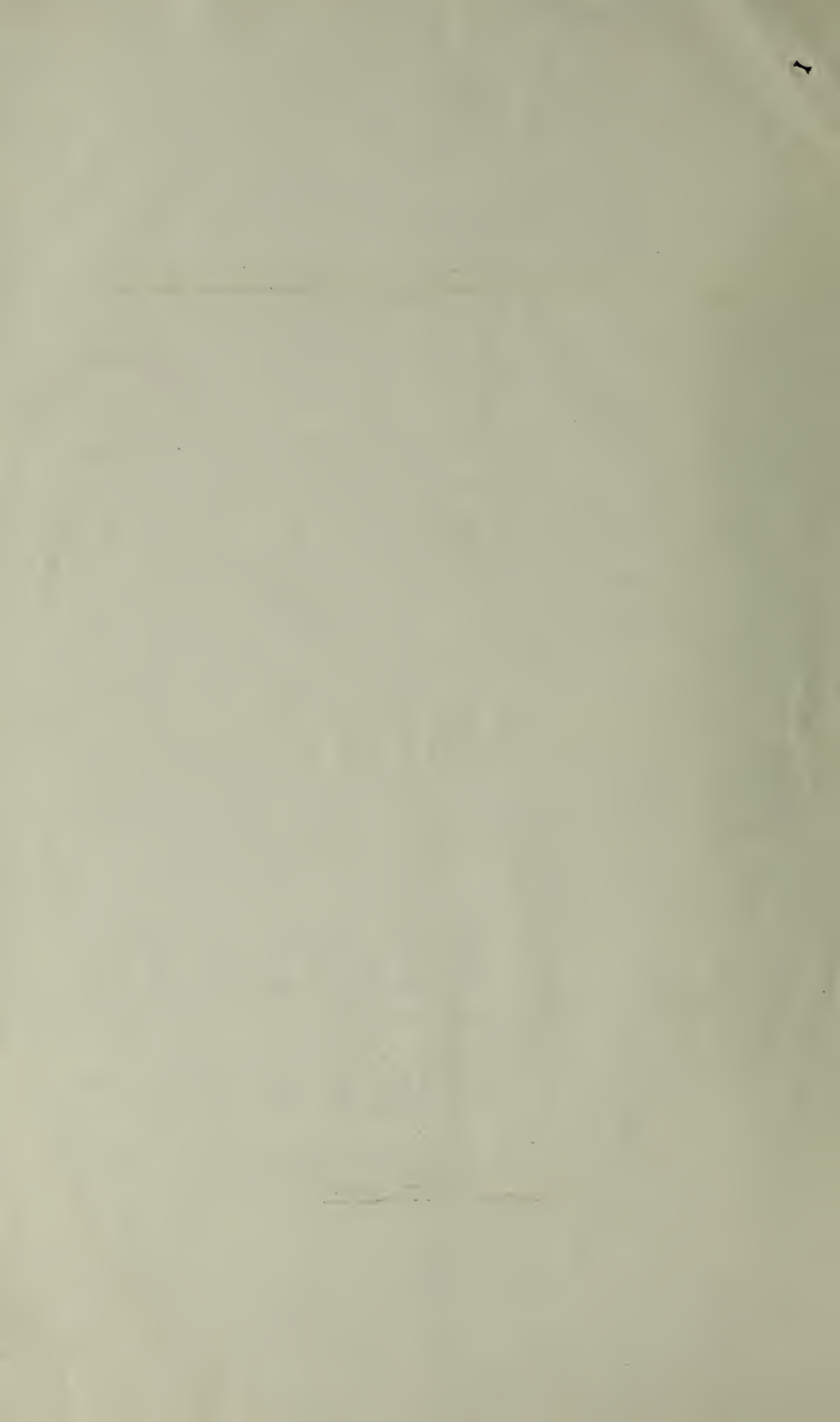
THE YEAR 1939

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1939.

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn.

Gentlemen,

In presenting my annual report for 1939 I shall begin by saying that, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, it will be a very short one, the instruction stating that during the war years reports should be cut down to a minimum, only including important alterations or improvements.

Social circumstances of the Area call for a little comment. Since the outbreak of war unemployment has been considerably reduced owing largely to the absorption of large numbers at the Falmouth Docks and also by the calling up of many men into the services. About 180 evacuees were received into the area, largely children accompanied by a parent, but most of these have now returned home. No serious difficulties from the health point of view were encountered and the social welfare of these evacuees has been very efficiently administered by the Committee of ladies appointed for that purpose.

Area in acres.	721.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population.	3,825.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1939).	1,175.
Rateable Value.	£16,992.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£65.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate.	33.	31.	64.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population. 17.2
<u>Live Births</u>			2.	
Illegitimate.				
<u>Still Births.</u>	1.	0.	1.	Rate per 1000 births= 15.
<u>Deaths.</u>	22.	28.	50.	

Giving a crude death-rate of 13.0 per 1,000 population.
 But this figure has to be corrected by multiplying by the
 Comparative Factor for the Area - in this case 0.89 which gives
 a corrected death-rate of 11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. nil.
2. Other causes. nil.

<u>Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-</u>	Legitimate. 5.
	Illegitimate. 1.
All infants per 1,000 live births.	90.9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	4.
. Measles (all ages)	nil.
. Whooping Cough (all ages).	1.
. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	nil.

I will briefly comment on these vital statistics :-

The birth-rate, as usual compares favourably with that for the
 Country as a whole, ours being 17.2. General rate 15.0

Our death-rate was 11.5 the general rate 12.1

In addition our death-rate was considerably less than that for
 1938 which was 14.7

With regard to the infant mortality rate of 90.9 compared with 15.8 for 1938 and 50 for England and Wales - This high figure is entirely misleading as four of the five deaths were premature [&] or congenitally malformed infants and therefore their deaths could be considered as unpreventable.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health. J.N.L.Blaney., M.B. B.Ch. D.I.H.

(Part time who is also District Medical Officer under the Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator).

Sanitary Inspector. J.F.Farris. A.R.S.I. (Half time) who also holds a certificate for Food Inspection.

There have been no alterations of any note in the Health Services for the Area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The supply has continued to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. The results of analyses, taken frequently by the Falmouth Corporation Water-Engineers, are regularly submitted to me and have been universally satisfactory.

I do not propose this year to include these analyses in my report, on the grounds of economy.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The only addition under this head was the connecting of the new Glasney Flats to the Main Sewer.

Closet Accomodation, Rivers and Streets, Public Cleansing.

Shops and Offices, Camping Sites. Smoke Abatement, Swimming Baths and Toils.

Under the above various heads there have been no changes to record.

Tradication of Bed-bugs.

1. Four Council Houses were found to be infested - these had been occupied by evacuees.
2. Disinfestation was carried out by the Local Authority: the methods used being Sulphur fumigation, Zaldecyde and Lanvercyde Sprays after skirting boards and picture rails had been removed and renewed.
3. Houses of prospective tenants of Council houses are inspected before they become tenants.
4. The work is carried out by the Council in the case of their own property, but landlords of infested property are given notice to abate the nuisance or, in default, the local Authority does it and charges the landlords.

Housing.

During the past year the Council completed, at the Glasney Place site, eight flats suitable for single people or a married couple. These consist of 1 bedroom, kitchen and usual offices. They serve a very useful purpose.

Regular inspections for defects and insanitary conditions and overcrowding were made up to the outbreak of hostilities, but I do not propose to give these in tabular form as is customary.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

Cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and the improvement in the conditions under which milk is produced and distributed, as noted in my last report, has been maintained.

Meat and other Foods.

Shops, stalls, vehicles etc are regularly inspected and there were no cases calling for disciplinary action, but about £30 worth of meat was condemned in shops.

There are now no slaughter houses in the Borough.

A store in Commercial Road has been used as a distributing Centre for the district. It is inspected weekly.

Drainage and Sewerage. The only extension to the main sewers has been at Glasney Place, where the new flats have been connected.

Closet Accomodation. No changes.

Rivers and Streams. No changes.

Public Cleansing. Nil.

Shops and Offices. Periodical inspection- No action found necessary

Camping Sites. None in Area.

Smoke Abatement. No action needed.

Swimming Baths and Pools. None in Area.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. Four Council houses were found to be infested, after occupation by evacuees - These were disinfested by Sulphur fumigation, Taldecyde Sprays, and by removing skirting boards and picture mouldings.

Schools.

No changes under this heading.

During the first part of the year of course the four Slaughter houses in the Borough were functioning and the Meat Inspector carried out the usual large number of inspections of animals and carcasses, but I do not propose to tabulate these, as the figures only refer to part of the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During 1939 the following notifications were received :-

Scarlet Fever.	25.
Pneumonia.	2.
Enterperal pyrexia.	1.
Whooping Cough.	1.

Of these cases only one, a Scarlet Fever where home conditions were unsatisfactory for Isolation and nursing, was admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

The Scarlet Fever started in one of the schools and was largely confined to scholars at this school or their immediate contacts.

There was no evidence of infection by milk.

The cases were largely of a mild type, which usually makes it more difficult to limit the spread, owing to certain cases escaping detection.

No immunization schemes have yet been started, owing to the extra work thrown on the officials by the outbreak of war - The need for such a scheme against Diphtheria still exists, however, and is indeed increased by the presence amongst us of large numbers of evacuated children with the consequent unavoidable overcrowding at home and at school. This work should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Apart from the usual visitation of Influenza in the Spring, a moderately severe epidemic, there was not much other infectious illness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

The following new cases and deaths were notified during 1939.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5.	1.	--	1.	--	1.	--	--	--
15.	--	--	--	--	--	1.	--	--
25.	1.	1.	1.	--	1.	--	--	--
35.	--	--	--	--	1.	--	--	--
45.	1.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
55.	1.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Only one of these deaths had apparently never been notified.

It is a pity that patients suffering from this complaint are so often reluctant to avail themselves of the facilities for active treatment in a Sanatorium or do not stay for the full course of Treatment advised.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLANEY.

